



COYOTE BULLETIN



Wildlife Watch Forum April 27th at 6:30pm

Residents and City officials are encouraged to attend the Wildlife Watch Forum either via Zoom or in-person at Hesse Park in the McTaggart Hall on Wednesday, April 27, 2022, from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm. The City will host a one-day informational forum administered by the Code Enforcement Division with professional guest speakers representing the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and the Los Angeles County Agricultural Commissioner. The objective of this workshop is to raise awareness by bringing neighbors together to recognize and distinguish wildlife sightings, wildlife threats to public safety, and natural versus unnatural wildlife behavior, with an emphasis on coyotes. Attendees will learn why it's important and how to report coyote sightings in Rancho Palos Verdes. Attendees will also learn what to do when encountering a coyote and how to successfully scare away or 'haze' coyotes using proper hazing techniques.

A recording of the meeting will be available for viewing on the City's website at www.rpvca.gov. For more information, please contact Code Enforcement Staff at (310) 544-5281 or via email at codeenforcement@rpvca.gov.

Zoom Webinar Passcode: 860045
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89894505078?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89894505078?pwd=Zjc0SWdyYWtNejk2d0ZlcDE1WjdNdz09)
[pwd=Zjc0SWdyYWtNejk2d0ZlcDE1WjdNdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89894505078?pwd=Zjc0SWdyYWtNejk2d0ZlcDE1WjdNdz09)



Coyote Feeding Prohibited

Coyotes primarily hunt rodents and wild rabbits for food but will take advantage of whatever is easiest to capture including small pets. Coyotes prefer to conserve their energy and often travel upwards of 15 miles per day in search of food, water, and shelter for their dens. Food, water, and shelter that's readily available such as, pet food, garbage, uncovered pools, and large shrubs or hedges allow coyotes to use the least amount of energy to access any of the three elements. Coyotes are territorial carnivores and will often guard their food source and their dens especially during the birthing season. Coyotes may appear fearless or become aggressive towards people and animals if they are inadvertently disturbed. They will likely increase their presence and aggressive activity by stalking small pets and/or small domestic livestock such as chickens. When encountering a coyote, it is important to use hazing techniques, or they will no longer be fearful of people. If Coyotes are not hazed properly, they will feel comfortable walking freely around people in neighborhoods or in backyards because they no longer feel threatened by humans. Coyotes must be hazed until they completely leave the area. The most important role you have in making a difference in deterring unwanted coyotes and wildlife in your yard or your neighborhood is to practice these helpful tips and talk with your neighbors:

- Remove all pet food and water dishes after use
- Tightly secure compost bins, trash containers, and trash lids to prevent tipping and spilling.
- Remove fallen and rotten fruit or vegetables daily
- Cover or place netting over larger water sources, such as pools, hot tubs, ponds, etc.
- To prevent sheltering wildlife, check sheds and crawl spaces regularly for damages and repair as needed
- Trim brush or shrubs at least six inches above ground to prevent wildlife from hiding or sheltering

These tips focus on the three most important main elements which attract wildlife:

1. Food 2. Water 3. Shelter

Without food, water, and shelter, your property will be less appealing to attracting wildlife, especially coyotes. If coyotes are congregating around your neighborhood, the problem may be that you or your neighbors may have inadvertently provided access to either of the three elements of food, water, and/or shelter, which serve as attractants. Never feed a coyote either intentionally or inadvertently. Deliberately feeding coyotes puts you, your pets, and your entire neighborhood at risk of potential injury and it's illegal too. Did you know that the City prohibits intentional feeding, which is punishable by a \$1,000 fine?

RANCHO PALOS VERDES MUNICIPAL CODE

RPVMC 10.84.010 Providing Food for Certain Rodents or Predator Animals Prohibited.
It is unlawful to feed a nondomesticated rodent or nondomesticated mammalian predator as defined in this section. For purposes of this chapter:
"Mammalian predators" include coyotes, raccoons, foxes, and opossums.
A violation of this section is a misdemeanor and will result in an administrative fine of \$1,000 or by imprisonment in the County Jail for not to exceed six months, or by both such fine and imprisonment. Each separate day, or any portion thereof, during which any violation of such ordinance occurs or continues constitutes a separate offense, and upon conviction thereof shall be punishable as herein provided. Additional offenses will result in criminal prosecution.
(Ord. 2016-0040 § 224, 2016: Ord. 81-0029U § 1 (part), 1981.)

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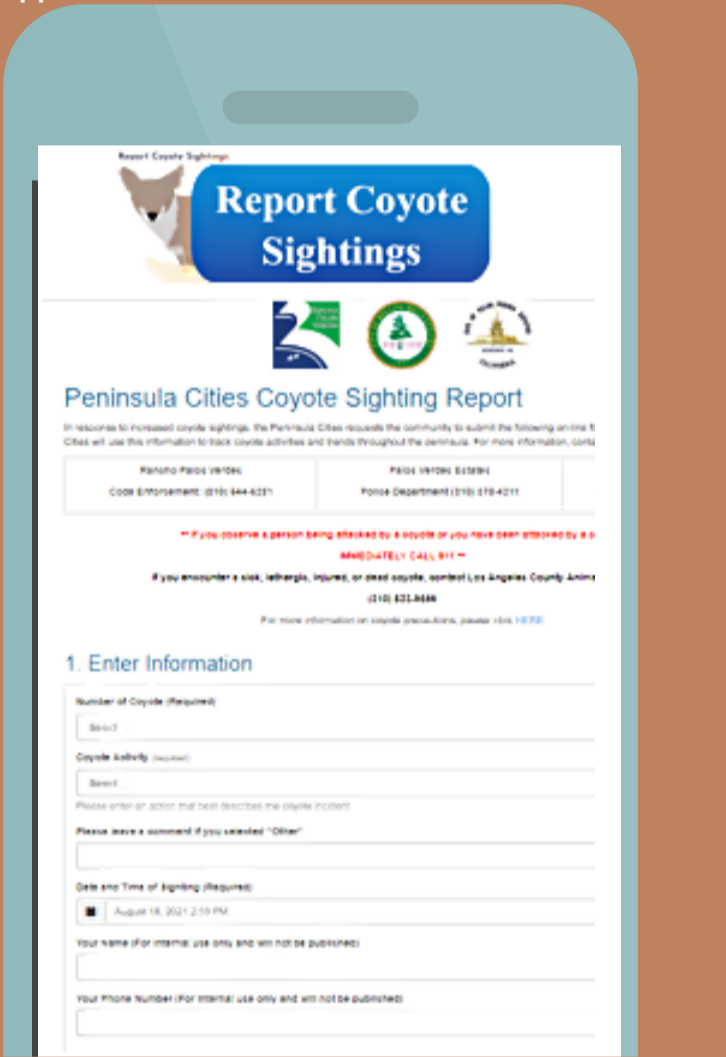
CITY OF RANCHO PALOS VERDES
30940 HAWTHORNE BOULEVARD
RANCHO PALOS VERDES, CA 90275

REPORTING COYOTE SIGHTINGS

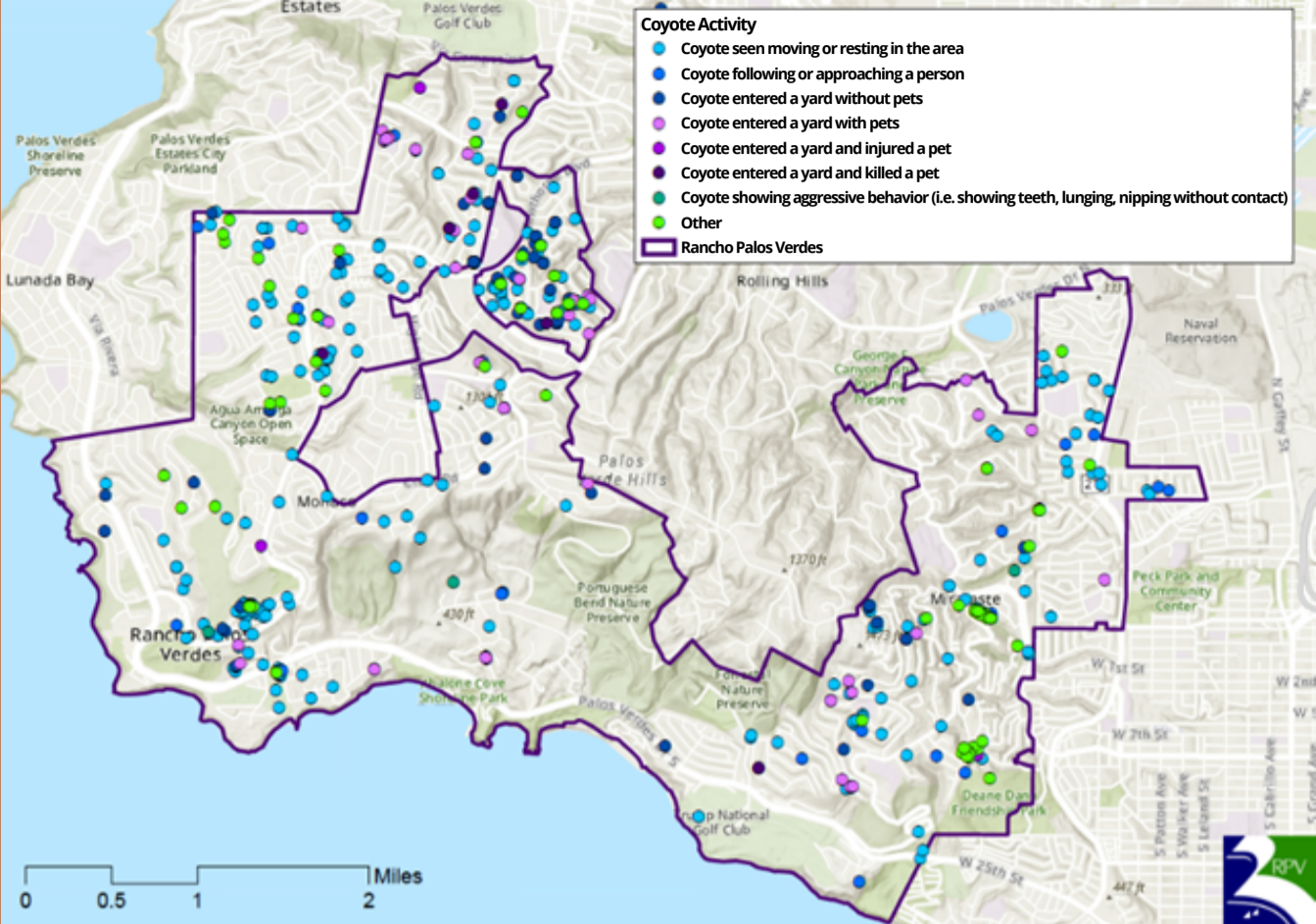
The Coyote Sighting Dashboard was created to provide awareness of coyote activity and sightings throughout the City of Rancho Palos Verdes. The data collected allows Staff to monitor coyote behavior, population, and sightings trends through the City’s application dashboard using charts, widgets, maps, and other visual elements. It’s important to report coyote activity to assist City Staff to proactively identify trending “hotspots,” provide public outreach forums, host wildlife education events, and support warranted selective trapping for “aggressive coyotes.”

If you encounter a sick, lethargic, injured, or deceased coyote, do not approach the animal. Note the exact location and contact LA County Animal Control at (310) 523-9566.

Report coyote sightings within the City of Rancho Palos Verdes at <https://www.rpvca.gov/335/Coyotes> and click on the blue button. You can also access the reporting link with the My RPV smartphone app.



MAPPING DATA



*Map does not accurately reflect current coyote data and trends.

In 2017, the City’s Information Technology (IT) Staff launched a web-based coyote sighting application that the public can use on mobile and desktop devices, which is available at [rpvca.gov/reportcoyotes](https://www.rpvca.gov/reportcoyotes). The application benefits all the Peninsula cities, and although its development was led by City Staff, it was a collaborative effort with the cities of Rolling Hills Estates and Palos Verdes Estates, whose residents and staff utilize this application as well. When residents report a coyote sighting and describe the coyote’s behavior or incident on this application, the reported information is documented and forwarded to City Staff. A map of the Peninsula is available on the website that identifies the location of the reported coyote and its activity.

To improve the public’s ability to review the data collected via the coyote sighting application, the application includes a dashboard to view real-time coyote sighting information. In 2021, the City’s IT Staff launched the MyRPV mobile app, which includes a coyote reporting feature residents can use from anywhere, via their smartphone or tablet. The data on the dashboard is displayed using charts, widgets, maps and other visual elements. The dashboard can be viewed on the City’s website at [rpvca.gov/CoyoteSightingDashboard](https://www.rpvca.gov/CoyoteSightingDashboard).

The public is encouraged to report coyote sightings and activity using the coyote application to allow the City to monitor coyote activity and behavioral trends.

Visit the City’s Code Enforcement website to view the most up to date data at: <https://www.rpvca.gov/509/Tips-for-Living-with-Coyotes>.

AGGRESSIVE COYOTE SIGHTING STRATEGIES

Residents of Rancho Palos Verdes who have concerns regarding aggressive coyote sightings are asked to complete a coyote sighting report using the City website or mobile app (see Reporting Coyote Sightings above). The reported sighting is then sent to the Code Enforcement Division where the reported data is analyzed and it is determined whether the situation may require preventative measures, such as conducting a yard check, or suggesting deterrents be placed on the reporting party’s property. In most cases, educating residents about proper hazing techniques and how to secure their yards to deter coyote activity usually resolves most incidents. In the event of an aggressive coyote attack, residents should always seek immediate emergency services and report the incident to the City as soon as possible. The information will be escalated to the County of Los Angeles Agricultural Commissioner for further analysis. The County will conduct its own investigation to assess the situation to determine if selective trapping is warranted. For aggressive, habituated coyotes, the City of Rancho Palos Verdes has contracted with Coyote, Wildlife & Pest Solutions to assist the County of Los Angeles with warranted, selective trapping.

According to the State of California Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) Trapping Laws and Regulations Section 1389d (REV. 7/16/21) §472 and §475, coyotes are considered “non-game wildlife.” Traps may be used to take nongame mammal only in accordance with the provisions of Section 465.5 of these regulations and sections 3003.1 and 4004 of the Fish and Game Code. For a complete review of Trapping Laws and Regulations, visit the DFW website at <https://wildlife.ca.gov/> and at <https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=45902>. In accordance with DFW regulations, residents may hire a state licensed private trapper to protect their property from depredation and/or aggressive nongame mammals.



SAFE AND ECO-FRIENDLY DETERRENTS

Keeping out unwanted coyotes and other wildlife from your yard, including stray cats and dogs, can be done successfully and humanely with safe and eco-friendly deterrents. Coyotes are very intelligent creatures and can adapt to changes within the urban environment, so you may need to try out a few products to find what works best for your specific needs. The City of Rancho Palos Verdes offers residents free yard checks to assist with identifying wildlife attractants, potential hiding spots, and assist with recommending placement of eco-friendly deterrents.

COYOTE ECOLOGY

The City of Rancho Palos Verdes is an ever growing and thriving urban community. Coyotes in urban populated areas help to maintain species diversity by regulating the number of skunks, raccoons, wild rabbits, and foxes, which helps to regulate the urban ecosystem.

Coyotes typically begin their mating season in late January through early March. During this period, coyotes are in search of a den and male coyotes may become more aggressive and territorial which poses a risk to people and household pets.

Between April through late May, female coyotes begin birthing their pups. Pups typically remain with their mothers for the next five to six months learning how to hunt and fend for themselves. During this period, late spring through early fall, residents are more likely to see an increase of coyote activity.

Typically, as fall approaches, coyote sightings will taper off as the pups become independent and the coyotes are not as active. Coyotes will stabilize their populations by only having as many pups as their territory can support. If your neighborhood inadvertently offers access to either of the three main elements of attractants, food, water, shelter, there will likely be an increase of coyotes in that area.



Motion-Activated Detectors/Sprinklers

Most motion-activated detectors are eco-friendly humane repellants that safely repel unwanted wildlife, including stray cats and dogs, on your property. Motion-activated detectors are generally easy to install on your own and operate on solar power; however, some may require professional installation. There are several types available that work to deter most wildlife, such as:

- Motion detector sprinklers
- Motion detector strobe lights
- Motion detector flood lights
- Motion detector sirens



Solar powered motion-activated animal repellent sprinklers repel most nuisance wildlife, including peafowl, stray cats, and dogs. They release a startling surge of water to scare animals away. Most are designed to use only 2-3 cups of water per spray, which helps reduce water waste. The infrared sensor detects animal heat and movement within a specified range. Most are equipped with a metal spike to allow for easy placement anywhere on your lawn or garden.

Disclosure: Methods suggested in this newsletter does not guarantee the effectiveness of deterring wildlife, including coyotes.

METHODS OF HAZING

Using a variety of different hazing tools is critical; coyotes can habituate to individual items, sounds, and actions.

- Yelling and waving your arms at the coyote, giving a large appearance. Stand tall, be loud and large.
- Noisemakers: yelling, whistles, air horns, bells, soda cans filled with pennies/nuts/bolts/batteries, banging pots and pans.
- Projectiles: sticks, small rocks, cans, tennis balls, rubber balls.
- Other: water hoses, water guns or spray bottles filled with vinegar, pepper spray, and walking sticks or canes.

IMPORTANT:

- NEVER run away from a coyote!
- If the coyote doesn't leave at first, increase the intensity of your hazing.
- Continue hazing until the coyote completely leaves the area.
- It is important to put the fear of people back into coyotes when encountering one in your neighborhood.

SUCCESSFUL HAZING:

Coyotes will often jog away a few feet from the hazer and stop and turn back to see if you're still a threat, which is why it's important to keep hazing until the coyote completely leaves the area. This is successful hazing! Successful hazing will send a message to the coyote that they are not welcome in the neighborhood and will go elsewhere in search of food, water, and/or shelter.

COUNTY AGENCY CONTACTS

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Website	https://wildlife.ca.gov/Keep-Me-Wild
Wildlife Incident Reporting	https://apps.wildlife.ca.gov/wir/incident/create
Contact	(888) 334-2258 or (858) 467-4201
Email	AskR5@wildlife.ca.gov

Agricultural Commissioner Weights & Measures

Website	https://acwm.lacounty.gov/animal-and-plant-pests-resources/
Contact	(626) 575-5471 or (626) 575-5462
Email	whpm@acwm.lacounty.gov

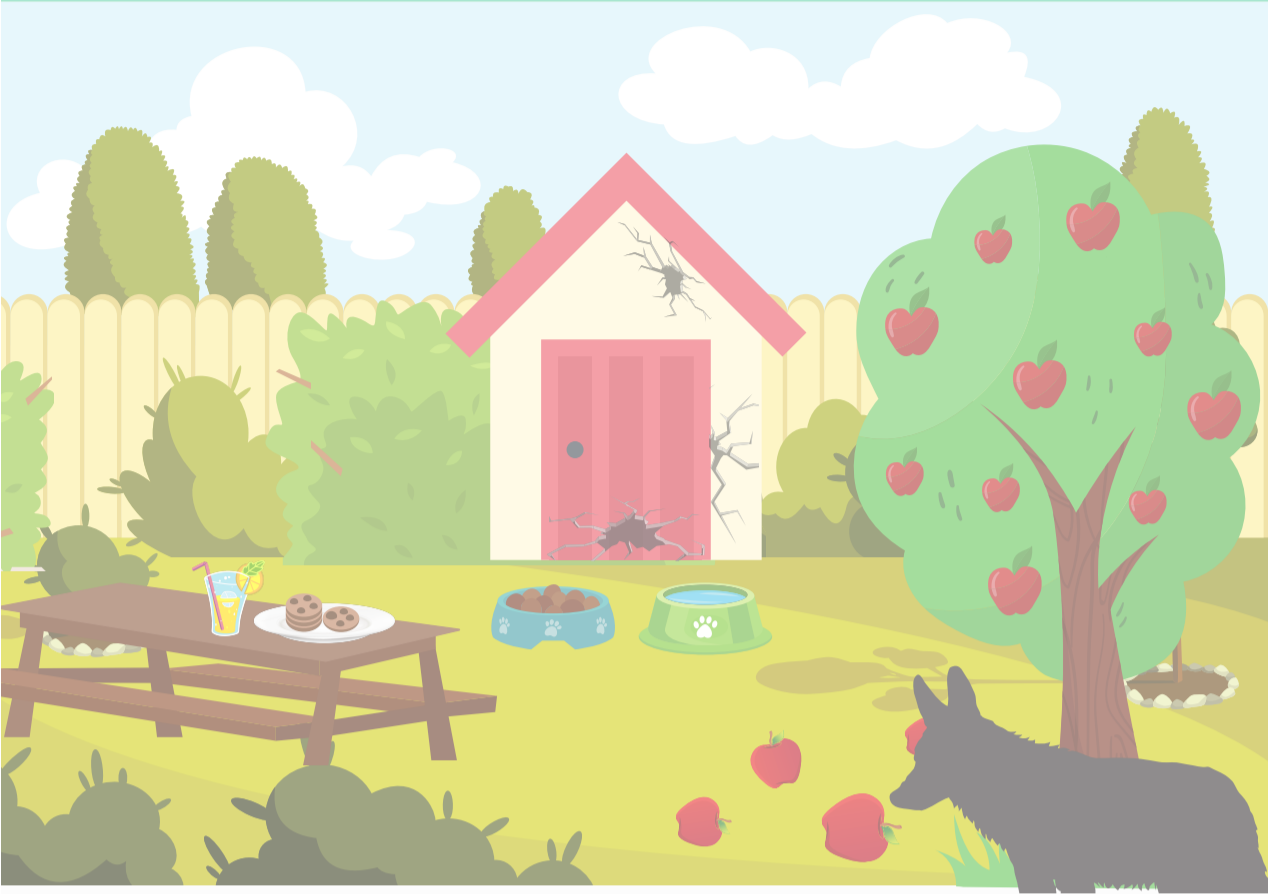
LA County Animal Control

Website	https://animalcare.lacounty.gov/
Contact	(310) 523-9566
Email	carson@animalcare.lacounty.gov





THE KIDS, CORNER



WHAT'S WRONG WITH THIS PICTURE?

The coyotes are visiting this family's backyard. What can they do to keep the coyotes away?

Circle the items in the picture that may attract or bring unwanted critters in your backyard. Write down what you would do to safely discourage coyotes from entering your yard.

CIRCLE: PET DISHES, FALLEN FRUIT, FOOD ON PICNIC TABLE, HOLE IN SHED

QUICK! YOU ARE PLAYING OUTSIDE AND YOU COME ACROSS A COYOTE! WHAT DO YOU DO TO SCARE THEM AWAY?



1

2

3

4

A.

WE SURE LOOK SIMILAR, BUT WE ARE NOT EVEN THE SAME TYPE OF ANIMAL! CAN YOU NAME US?

B.

C.

D.



A: WOLF
B: COYOTE
C: DOG
D: FOX

1. WAVE ARMS, 2. SCREAM LOUDLY, 3. TOSS OBJECTS TOWARDS COYOTE, 4. KEEP SCARING UNTIL THE COYOTE RUNS AWAY